

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of the claims. Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

The formal objections have been overcome by the amendments. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

The non-round, non-cylindrical complimentary surfaces of the fastener are the subject of the invention and are not found in either Davies or Burton, both of which have round, cylindrical heads on the fasteners. The cylindrical heads are prone to turning and jamming in their receivers during tightening. These cylindrical heads are therefore responsible for sudden unexpected scaffold loosening and are the problem the present invention seeks to avoid.

Claims 40 and 60 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Removal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection is requested. The Examiner has cited no reasons for the Applicant's invention being anticipated by the Davies or Burton reference. As such, the Applicant cannot respond to the rejection. Removal of the rejection is requested.

Claim 41 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Davies (GB 2,129,904) in view of Parma (US 5,190,392).

Claim 41 teaches Scaffold coupling apparatus as in claim 40, wherein the contact surfaces of the T-shaped head and the bell-shaped projection have complementary shapes for preventing a turning motion of the T-shaped head inside the bell-shaped projection.

Davies teaches a scaffolding fitting with a round, cylindrical head. Without the non-round, non-cylindrical complimentary surfaces of the Applicant's invention, the scaffolding fitting of Davies does not prevent loosening of a bolt during tightening that the present invention seeks to alleviate. Without the non-round, non-cylindrical complimentary surfaces of the Applicant's invention, Davies is not the same as the Applicant's invention.

Furthermore, Parma shows a cylindrical curve on a fastener head that also may twist and jam in an unseated manner upon tightening. Parma does not have a wedge, but has a cylindrical shaped head that can turn in a cylindrically shaped socket (38) as shown in Parma's figures 6 and 8. Parma shows a cylindrical curve on a fastener head that also may twist and jam in an unseated manner upon tightening. Parma is not wedge shaped, but is half cylindrical shaped for fitting into a cylindrical shaped socket. It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Davies with Parma. Neither Davies nor Parma has a non-round, non-cylindrical complimentary surface that would prevent dangerous loosening of bolts during tightening of scaffolding.

Therefore, claim 41 is patentable over Davies in view of Parma.

Claims 41 – 54 and 57 – 59 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Burton (US 219,883) in view of Parma (US 5,190,392).

Claim 40 teaches a scaffold coupling apparatus for a scaffold comprising scaffold coupling elements having a pivot bolt, first and second half braces attachable around one of the tubular scaffold elements and having pivot ends pivotable around the pivot bolt, the first half brace comprising a fork-shaped free end-piece and the second half brace comprising a free end with a bell-shaped projection, a fastener for positioning in the bell-shaped projection and

pivotably locating in the fork-shaped free end-piece for connecting and tightening first and second braces, the fastener comprising a shaft including a T-shaped head on one end and a threaded portion on an opposite end, the T-shaped head of the fastener being locatable in the bell-shaped projection of the second brace, with the bell-shaped projection limiting a pivotal motion of the fastener, non-cylindrical contact surfaces on the T-shaped head, complementary non-cylindrical contact surfaces in the bell-shaped projection for snugly fitting the T-shaped head in the bell-shaped projection, and a nut disposed on the threaded portion of the shaft for tightening the fastener after insertion of the shaft in the fork-shaped end-piece thereby tightening the first and second half braces around the tubular scaffold element without turning the T-shaped head in the bell-shaped projection and preventing jamming of the T-shaped head in the bell-shaped projection.

Burton teaches a scaffolding fitting with a round, cylindrical head. Without the non-round, non-cylindrical complimentary surfaces of the Applicant's invention, the scaffolding fitting of Burton does not prevent loosening of a bolt during tightening that the present invention seeks to alleviate. Without the non-round, non-cylindrical complimentary surfaces of the Applicant's invention, Burton is not the same as the Applicant's invention.

Furthermore, Parma shows a cylindrical curve on a fastener head that also may twist and jam in an unseated manner upon tightening. Parma does not have a wedge, but has a cylindrical shaped head that can turn in a cylindrically shaped socket (38) as shown in Parma's figures 6 and 8. Parma shows a cylindrical curve on a fastener head that also may twist and jam in an unseated manner upon tightening. Parma is not wedge shaped, but is half cylindrical shaped for fitting into a cylindrical shaped socket. It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Burton with Parma. Neither Burton nor Parma

has a non-round, non-cylindrical complimentary surface that would prevent dangerous loosening of bolts during tightening of scaffolding.

Therefore, claim 40 is patentable over Burton in view of Parma.

Claims 41-54 and 57-59 add further patentable limitations to the patentable limitations of claim 40 described above. Therefore, claims 41-54 and 57-59 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Burton in view of Parma.

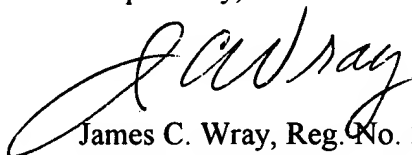
Nothing in the references, either singly or in combination, teaches or suggests the claimed features. Therefore, the references cannot anticipate nor render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Applicant has presented a novel, unique and non-obvious invention.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully,



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